

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN IMMEDIATE

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FREETOWN FOR AMBASSADOR:USIA PASS STATE/MCGUIRE

1. THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED /GHANAIAN TIMES/ WEDNESDAY GAVE FOUR-COLUMN LEAD HEADLINE TO ATTACK ON U.S.-BASED-INTERNATIONAL SICKLE CELL ANEMIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ISCARI) AND FOLLOWED UP INSIDE WITH LONG EDITORIAL.

2. HEADLINE READS "U.S. BODY EXPOSED" WITH OVERLINE "FALSE CLAIM ON SICKLE CELL ANAEMIA IN GHANA." GIST OF STORY IS RELEASE BY GHANA INSTITUTE OF CLINICAL GENETICS (GICG) CLAIMING THAT ISCARI BROCHURE BEING DISTRIBUTED IN U.S. CONTAINS "INCORRECT AND MISLEADING" CLAIMS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF GHANAIS SUFFERING SICKLE CELL ANEMIA, AND ITS RELATIVE EFFECTS ON THOSE WHO HAVE THE DEFECT. ISCARI BROCHURE ALLEGEDLY SAYS 2 MILLIONS GHANAIS, OR 20 PERCENT OF POPULATION, HAVE SCA WHILE AN ADDITIONAL 30 PERCENT ARE CARRIERS. STORY SAYS TRUTH IS THAT ONLY 100,000 GHANAIS HAVE SCA AND THAT AT MOST 20 PERCENT OF POPULATION ARE CARRIERS. STORY ALSO DISPUTES ALLEGED ISCARI STATEMENT THAT SCA "TRAIT GHANAIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE SICKLE CELL TRAIT AMERICAN."

3. EDITORIAL, "THROW THIS TEAM OUT OF GHANA" REPEATS GENERAL UNCLASSIFIED

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ARGUMENT OF GICG RELEASE AND RECALLS A BRITISH MEDICAL

JOURNAL STORY ON SCA SEVERAL YEARS AGO DEALING WITH THE
THE EFFECTS OF LONG-TERM PRESSURIZED FLYING ON SUFFERERS. EDITORIAL
ACCUSES EARLIER STATEMENT OF FOMENTING "SOCIAL AND RACIAL
INJUSTICE" AND CITES "A TEAM OF RENOWNED GHANAIAAN MEDICAL
SPECIALISTS" WHO REFUTED THAT EARLIER STORY. EDITORIAL
CONTINUES: "WE FIND IT VERY DISTASTEFUL AND UNFAIR FOR MEDICAL
SCIENCE TO BE MANIPULATED IN DEFENCE OF POLITICS INSTEAD
OF ADVANCING HUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND PROGRESS." IT CHARGES
KNOWLEDGE HAS BEEN "FRAUDULENTLY BENT" AND "IS CLEARLY
INTELLECTUAL BIGOTRY AND NOT SCIENCE AT ALL." EDITORIAL
CONCLUDES BY DEPLORING GOG APPARENT SUPPORT FOR ISCARI AND URGES
COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH "WILL THROW THEM OUT", REFERRING TO
ISCARI GROUP CURRENTLY IN GHANA DOING SCA RESEARCH.

4. COMMENT: TWO ISCARI REPRESENTATIVES CURRENTLY IN GHANA
AND PLANNING TO GO TO FREETOWN THURSDAY.
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